

HOW TO BECOME A DRAGON

- EPISODE 177 -

WE HAVE
BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU...





... THE NEXT
DRAGON OF THE
NAKDONG RIVER.



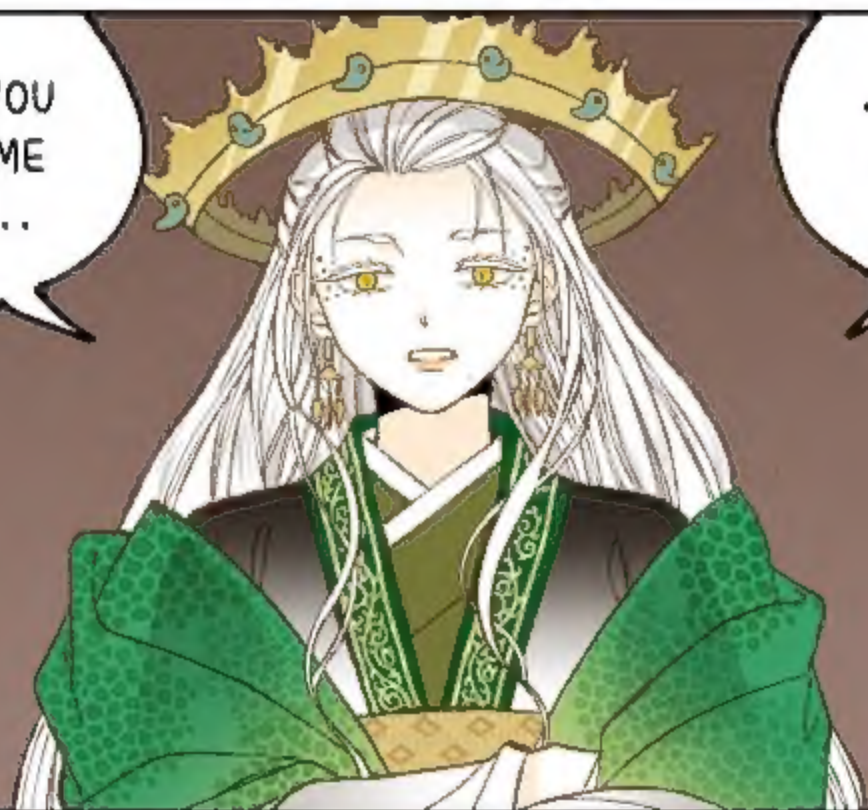
FWS
SHHH

AH...



NOW THAT YOU
HAVE BECOME
A DRAGON...

... YOU MUST
MAKE YOUR
CHOICE.



WHO...

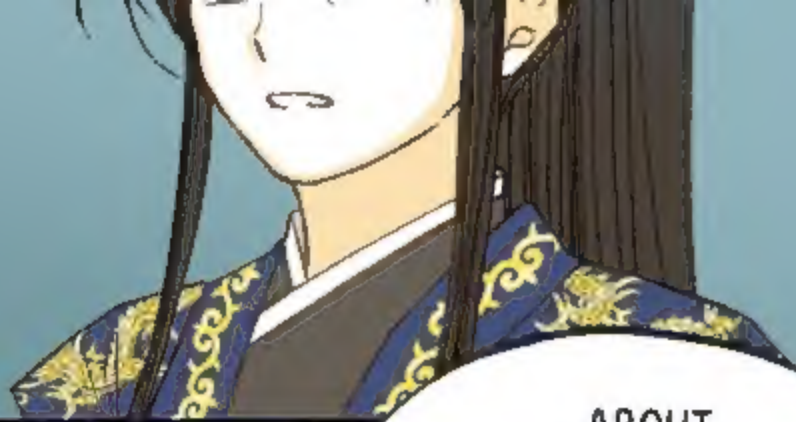






I KEPT
THINKING...





...ABOUT
WHAT I WOULD HAVE
DONE IN YOUR
POSITION.

IF I HAD TO
ABANDON ONE
OF YOU...



...WHAT
WOULD I HAVE
DONE?

IT MUST
HAVE BEEN
SIMILAR...



... TO MY
SITUATION
NOW.

I...



... WILL GIVE
THE POISON TO...

SWING





T...





ABANDON ONE PERSON
WHO HAS BEEN BY
MY SIDE...

TWOSHHHH

... THIS IS
MY CHOICE.

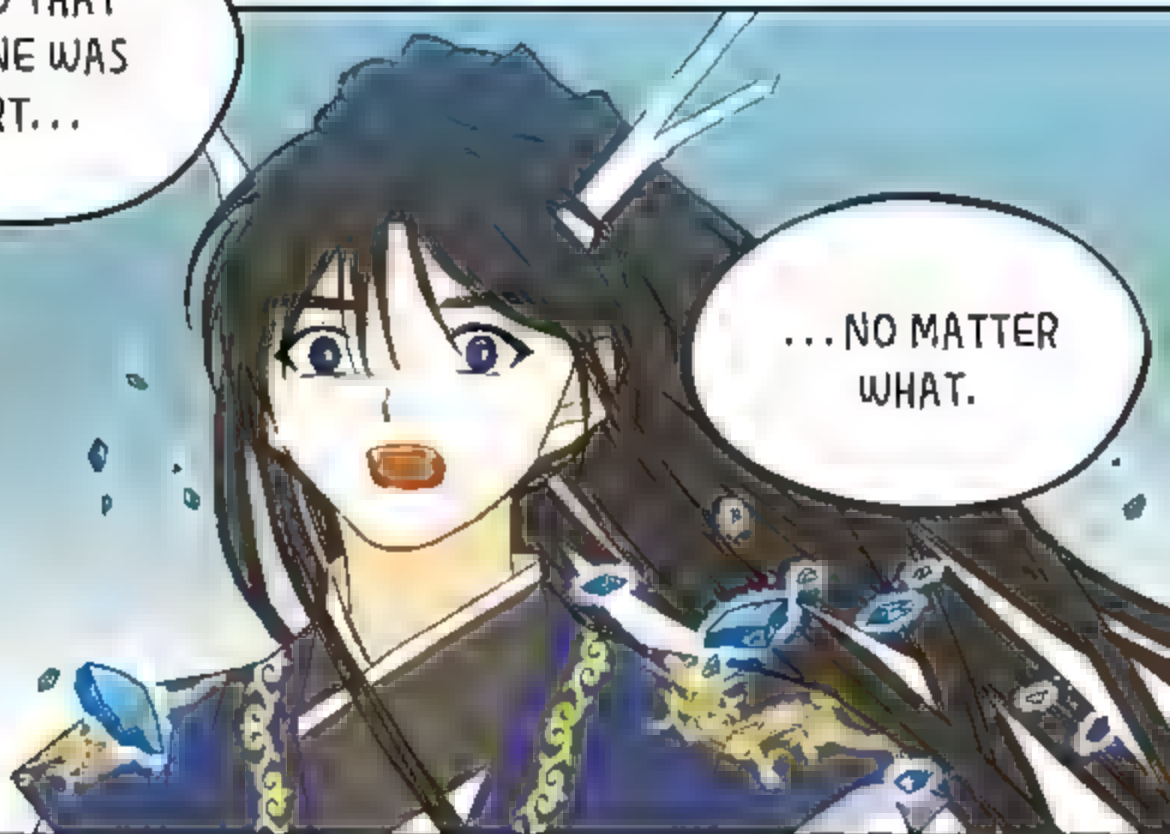
IF I WAS IN YOUR
SITUATION...



...I WOULD HAVE
FOUND A DIFFERENT
SOLUTION...

...SO THAT
NO ONE WAS
HURT...

...NO MATTER
WHAT.

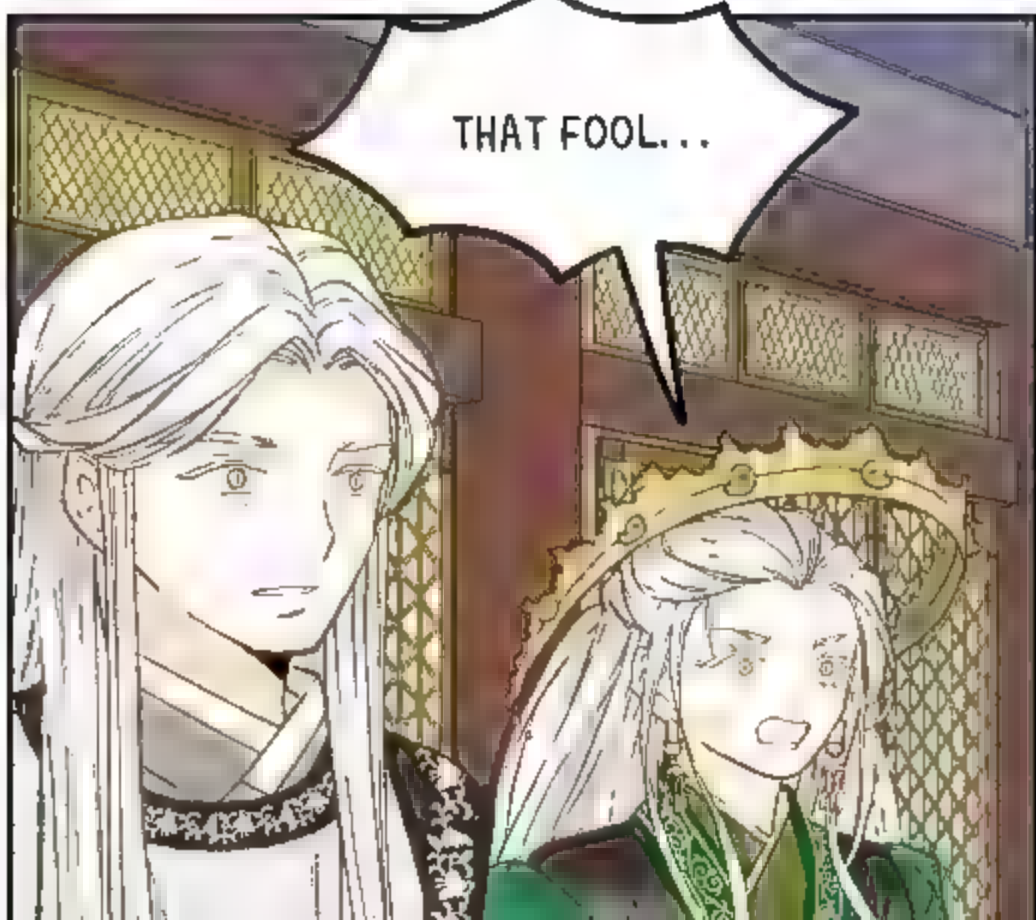


I WOULD HAVE
MADE A DIFFERENT
DECISION...



...THAN YOU.

THAT FOOL...



...

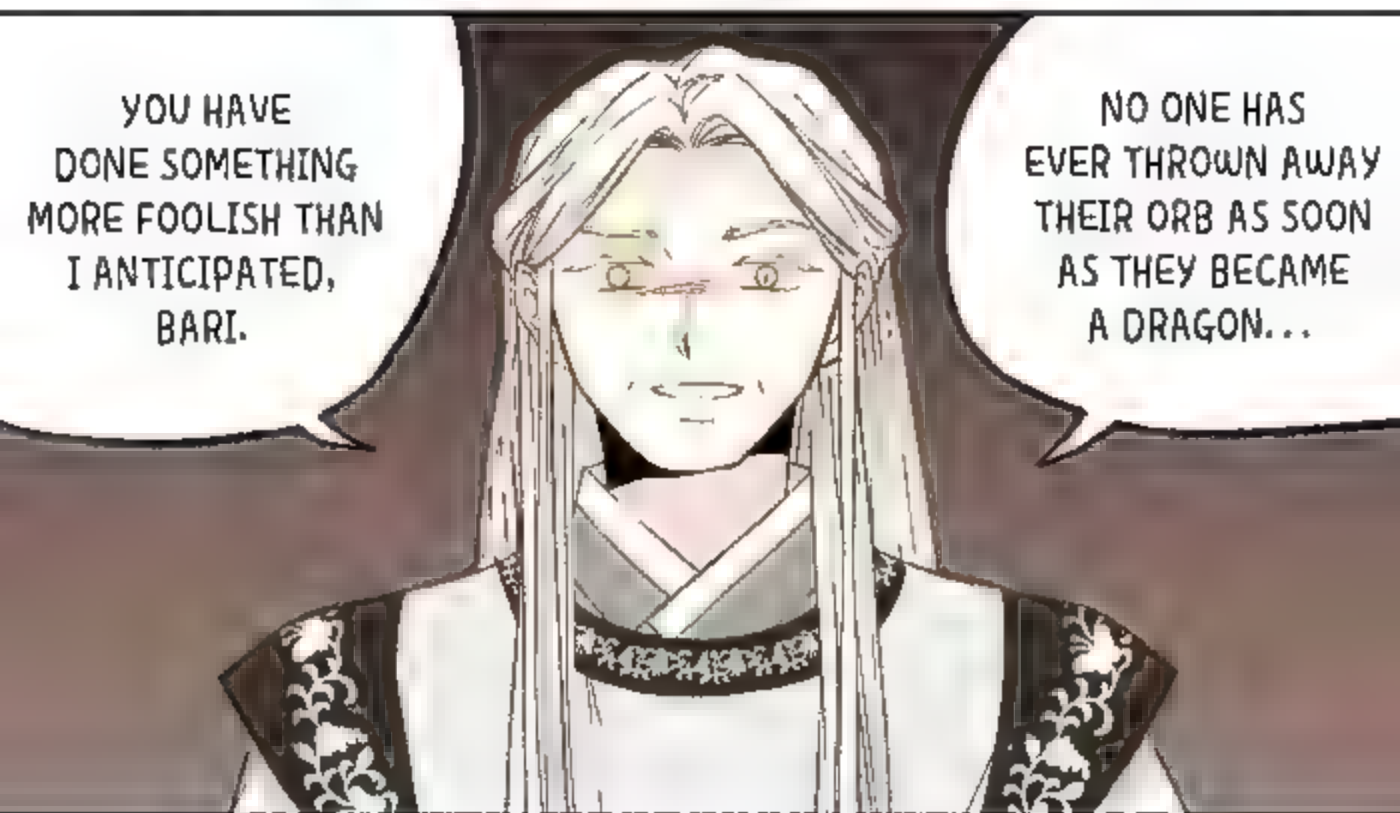
YOU ARE
NO DIFFERENT
THAN THE PREVIOUS
NAKDONG RIVER
DRAGON!

YOU
BROKE YOUR ORB
WITH YOUR OWN HANDS
AND POLLUTED
THE WATERS...

SEEP

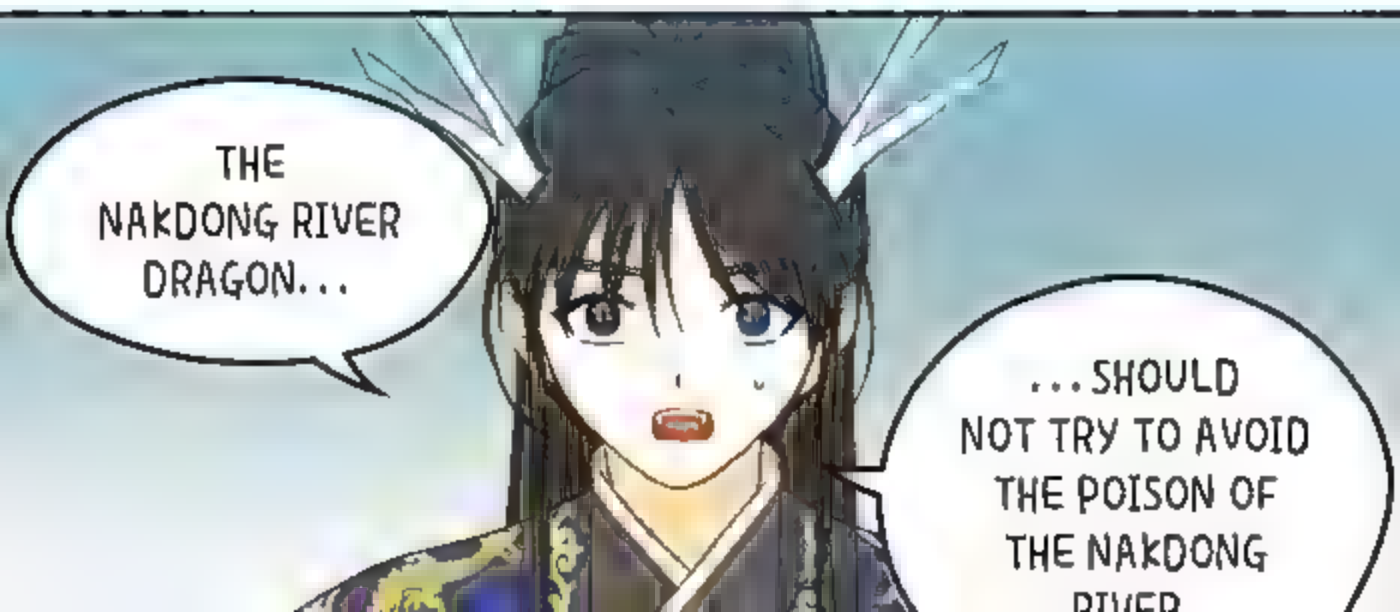
SEEP

YOU WILL
MEET THE SAME
FATE AS YOUR
PREDECESSOR!



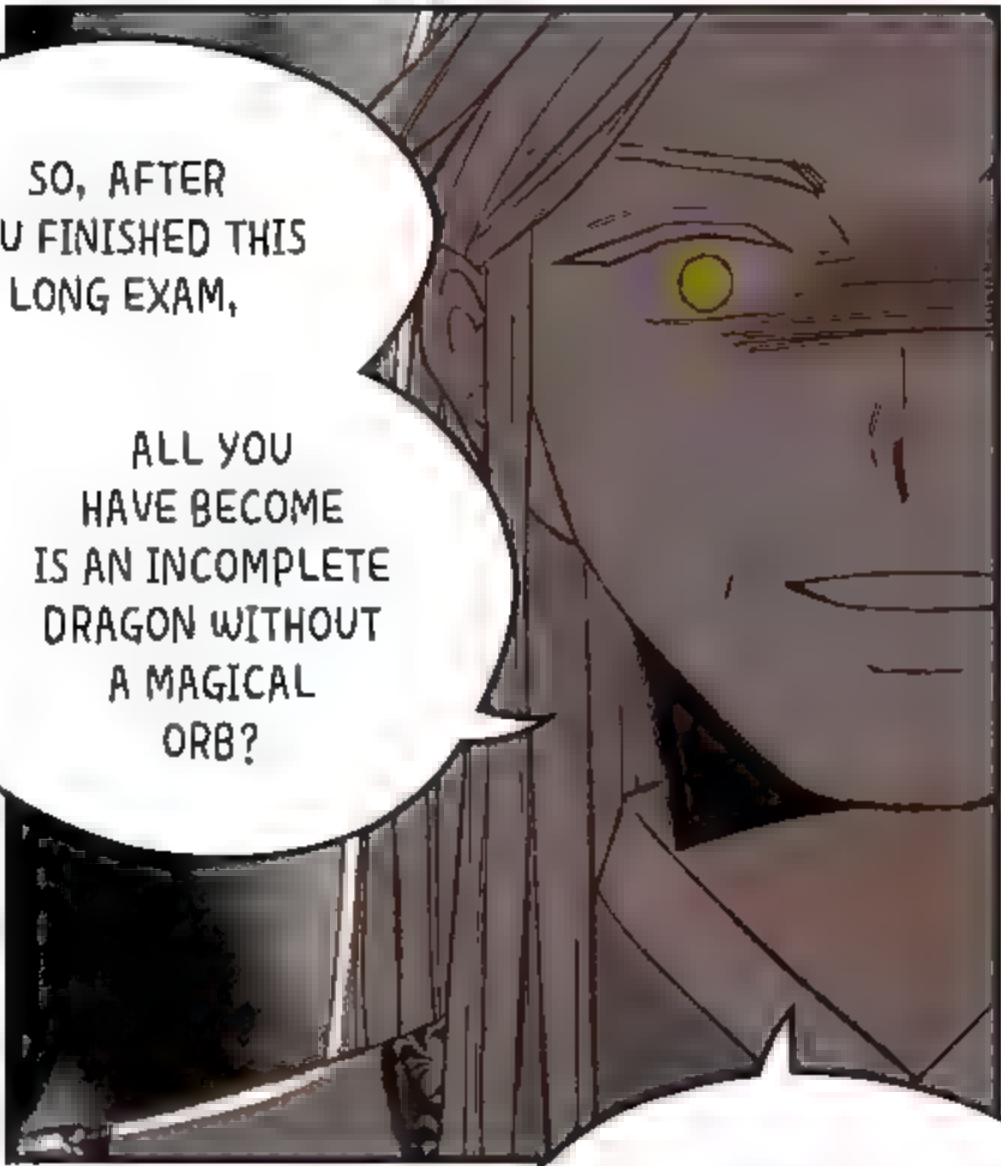
YOU HAVE
DONE SOMETHING
MORE FOOLISH THAN
I ANTICIPATED,
BARI.

NO ONE HAS
EVER THROWN AWAY
THEIR ORB AS SOON
AS THEY BECAME
A DRAGON...



THE
NAKDONG RIVER
DRAGON...

... SHOULD
NOT TRY TO AVOID
THE POISON OF
THE NAKDONG
RIVER

A close-up of a character's face, likely a dragon, with a yellow eye and a serious expression. The character is wearing a dark, patterned garment. The background is dark and indistinct.

SO, AFTER
YOU FINISHED THIS
LONG EXAM,

ALL YOU
HAVE BECOME
IS AN INCOMPLETE
DRAGON WITHOUT
A MAGICAL
ORB?

I AM CERTAIN
YOU KNOW OF THE
NAKDONG RIVER'S
SITUATION.



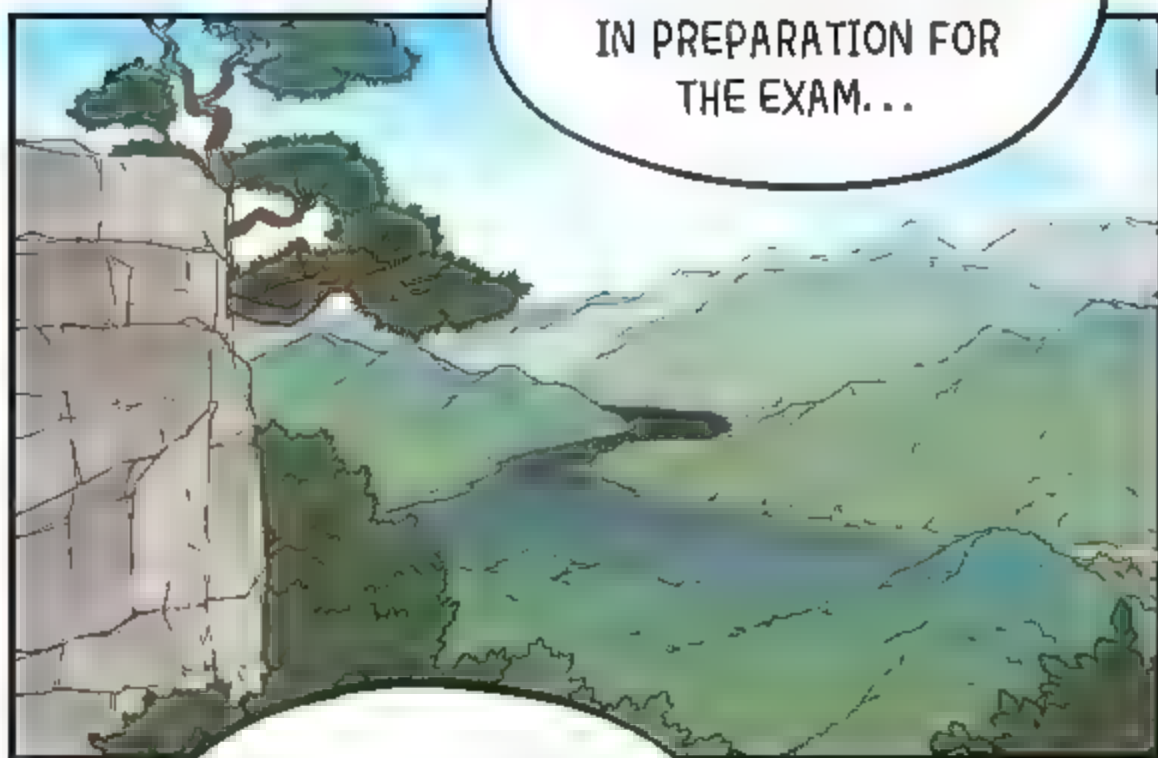
I...



... HAVE LEARNED
MORE IN LESS THAN
A YEAR WHILE TAKING
YOUR EXAM...



... THAN
I HAVE IN THE LAST
MILLENNIUM.



AS I ROAMED
ACROSS ALL OF JOSEON
IN PREPARATION FOR
THE EXAM...

... I HAVE
SEEN THE WORLD AND
MET THE DRAGONS
OF MANY RIVERS.

I HAVE MET



A DRAGON WHO
ONLY CARED ABOUT
HER RIVER AND
CREATURES,

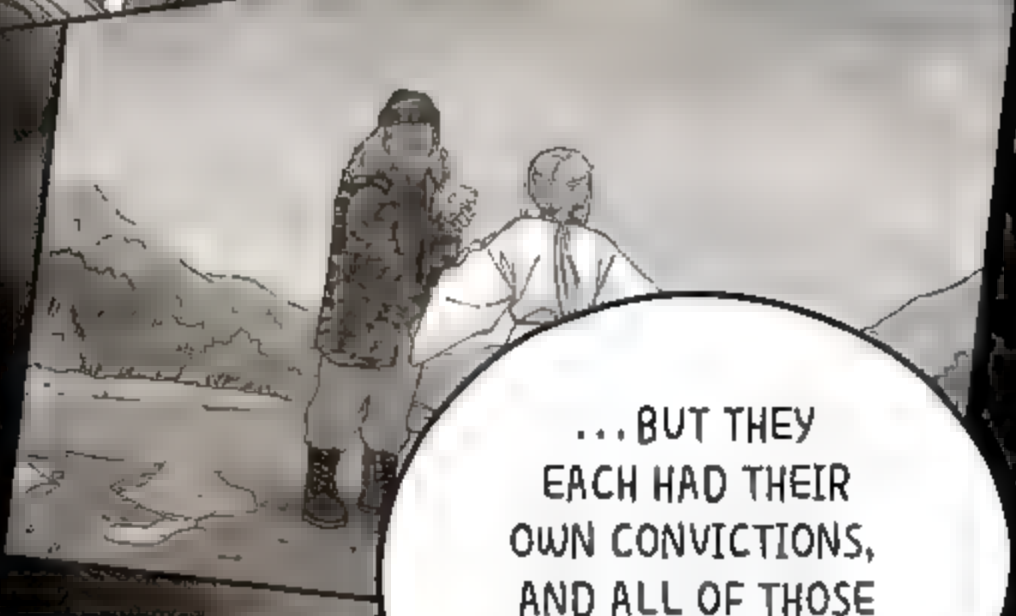
AND WAS
UNSPEAKABLY CRUEL
TO OUTSIDERS...

... A DRAGON
WHO BROUGHT
HARM TO HIS OWN BODY
FOR THE SAKE OF
HIS RIVER...

... A DRAGON
WHO REGRETTED
BEING TRAPPED BY
HER POSITION, BUT COULD
NOT BRING HERSELF TO
IGNORE THE NEEDS
OF HER RIVER.



THEY
ALL HAD DIFFERENT
PERSONALITIES AND
APPEARANCES...



... BUT THEY
EACH HAD THEIR
OWN CONVICTIONS,
AND ALL OF THOSE
CONVICTIONS WERE
CORRECT.



JUST BECAUSE
ONE'S BODY IS
INCOMPLETE DOES NOT MEAN
THAT THEY ARE NOT
A DRAGON...



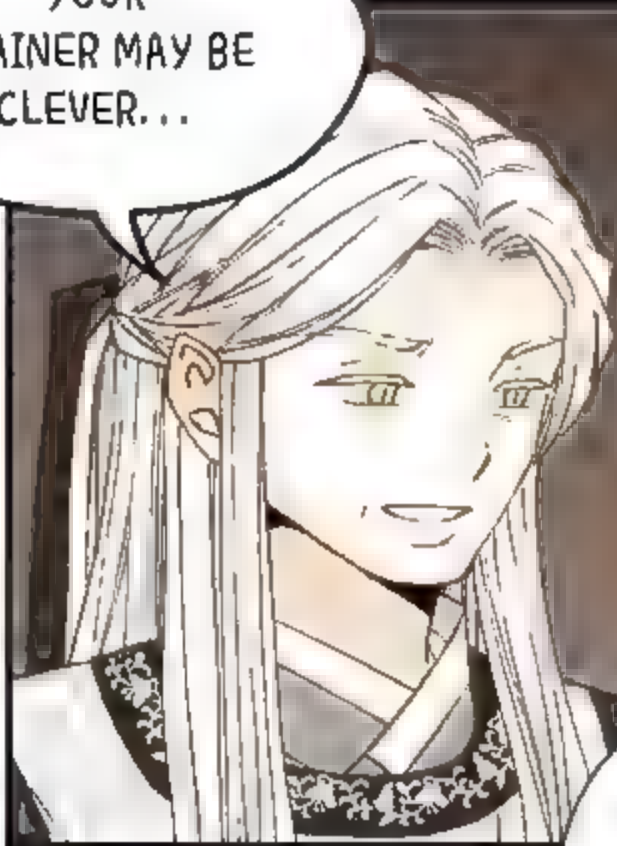
... AND JUST
BECAUSE I DO NOT
HAVE AN ORB DOES NOT
MEAN THAT I AM NOT
A DRAGON,
EITHER.

I WILL
BE DIFFERENT
FROM THE PREVIOUS
NAKDONG RIVER
DRAGON...





... BECAUSE
I HAVE A TRAINER.



YOUR
TRAINER MAY BE
CLEVER...

... BUT
DO YOU REALLY
THINK A HUMAN CAN
REPLACE YOUR
ORB?

NO.

THE
TRAINER I AM
REFERRING
TO...



...IS ALL
OF THE IMOOGIS
HERE...

WILD RAVE





... WHO
TOOK THIS EXAM
WITH ME.

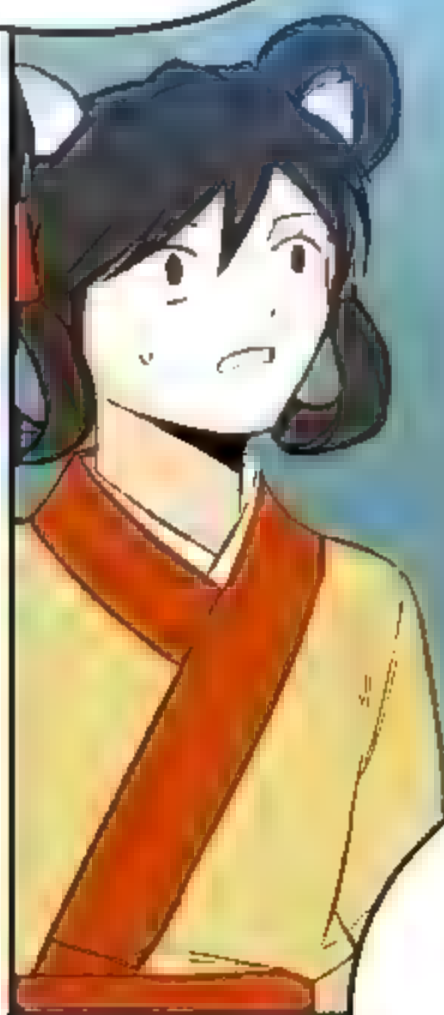


THE NAKDONG
RIVER IS THE SECOND
LARGEST RIVER IN
THIS LAND.



THERE
IS MUCH THAT
I MUST DO AS ITS
DRAGON.

I MUST STOP
THE POLLUTION, AND
I MUST ALSO RESTORE
THE RUINED
PALACE.



I MUST ALSO
REVIVE ALL OF THE
PALACE SERVANTS AND
RIVER CREATURES
WHO DIED IN
DROVES.

EVEN
THOUGH I HAVE
BECOME A DRAGON
THROUGH YOUR
BLESSING...





... THERE IS
TOO MUCH WORK
TO BE DONE.

I CANNOT
HANDLE IT ALL ON
MY OWN.

THAT IS
WHY...

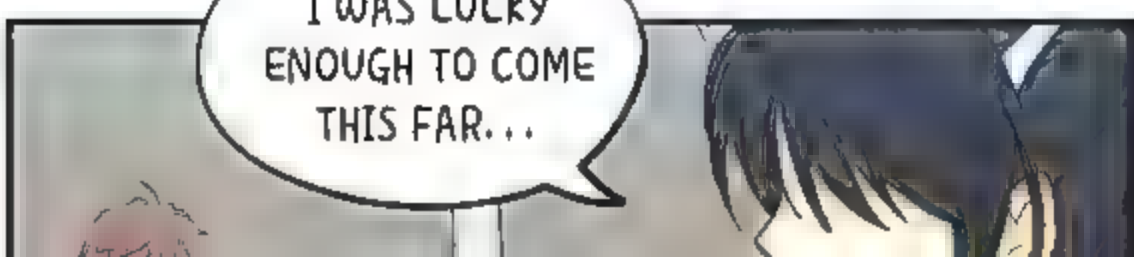
FWSHHH





I WOULD
LIKE TO TAKE
EACH OF THESE
IMOOGIS...

... TO MY RIVER
WITH ME.



I WAS LUCKY
ENOUGH TO COME
THIS FAR...



... THANKS
TO MY AMAZING
TEACHER.

BESIDES
TEACHING ME
TO TREASURE
MYSELF...

... HE HAS
TAUGHT ME MANY
THINGS.

OUT OF
THIS GROUP OF
IMOOGIS,

I'M SURE THAT
MY POTENTIAL AS
A DRAGON WAS THE
WEAKEST...

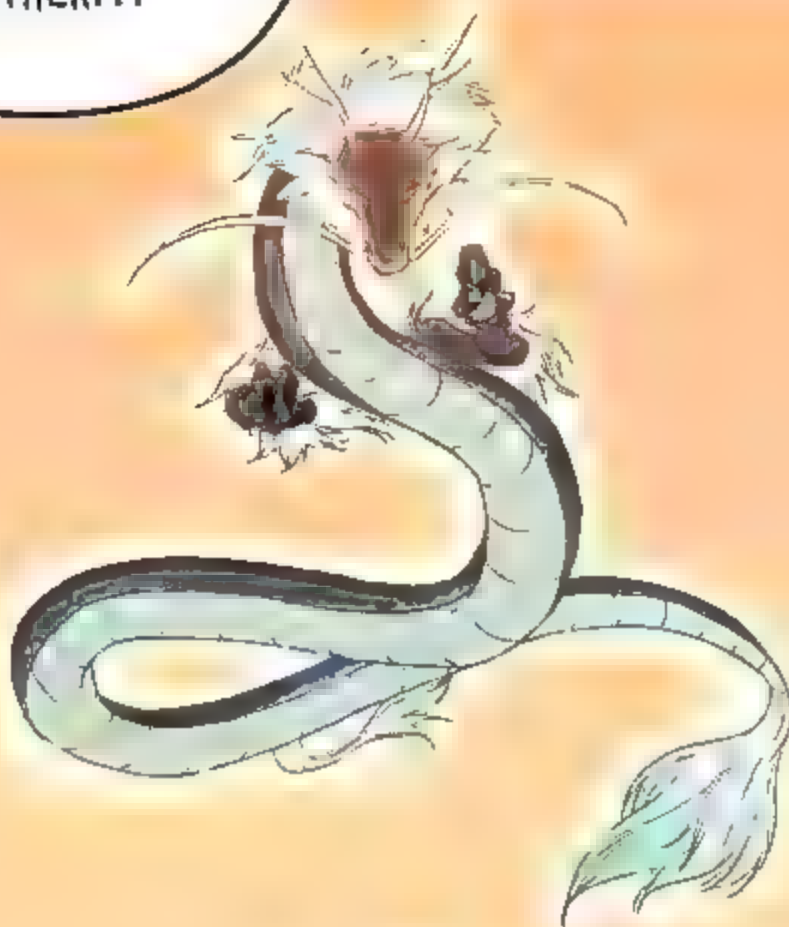
... BUT SINCE
I AM CONFIDENT IN
MY PURIFYING POWERS,
I WILL NOW BECOME
A TEACHER...





...AND
TEACH THEM.

IF ALL OF
THESE IMOOGIS
PUT THEIR POWER
TOGETHER...



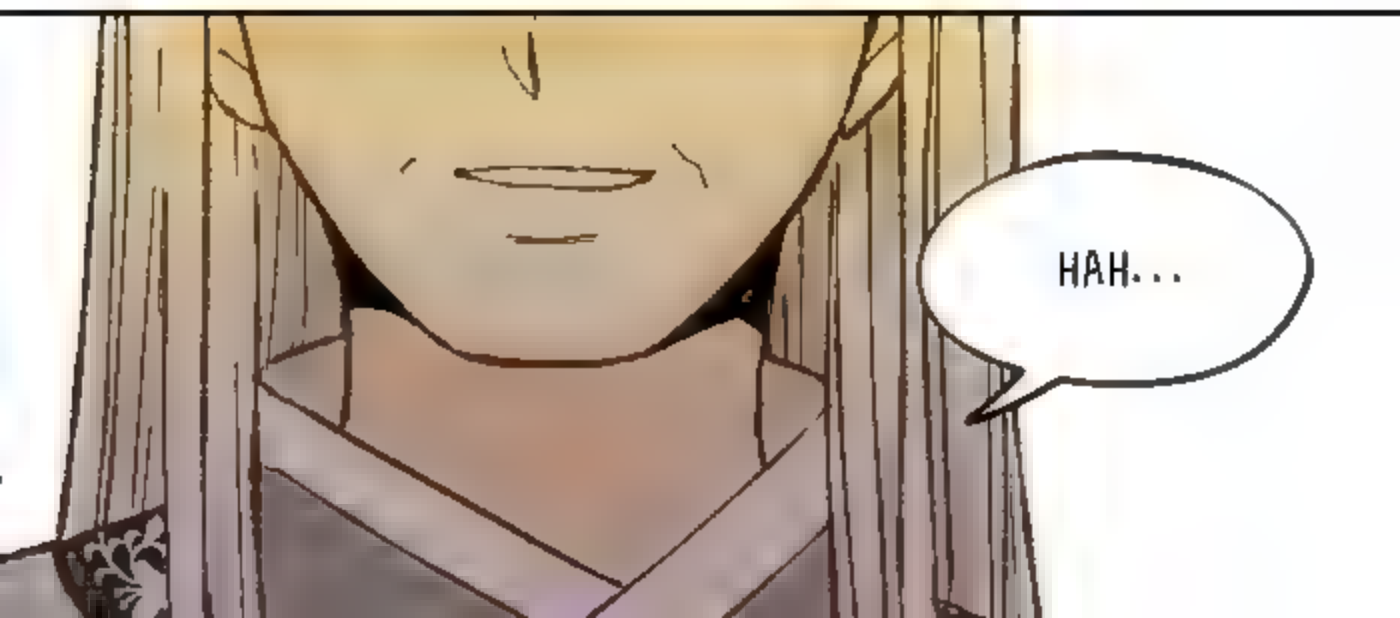
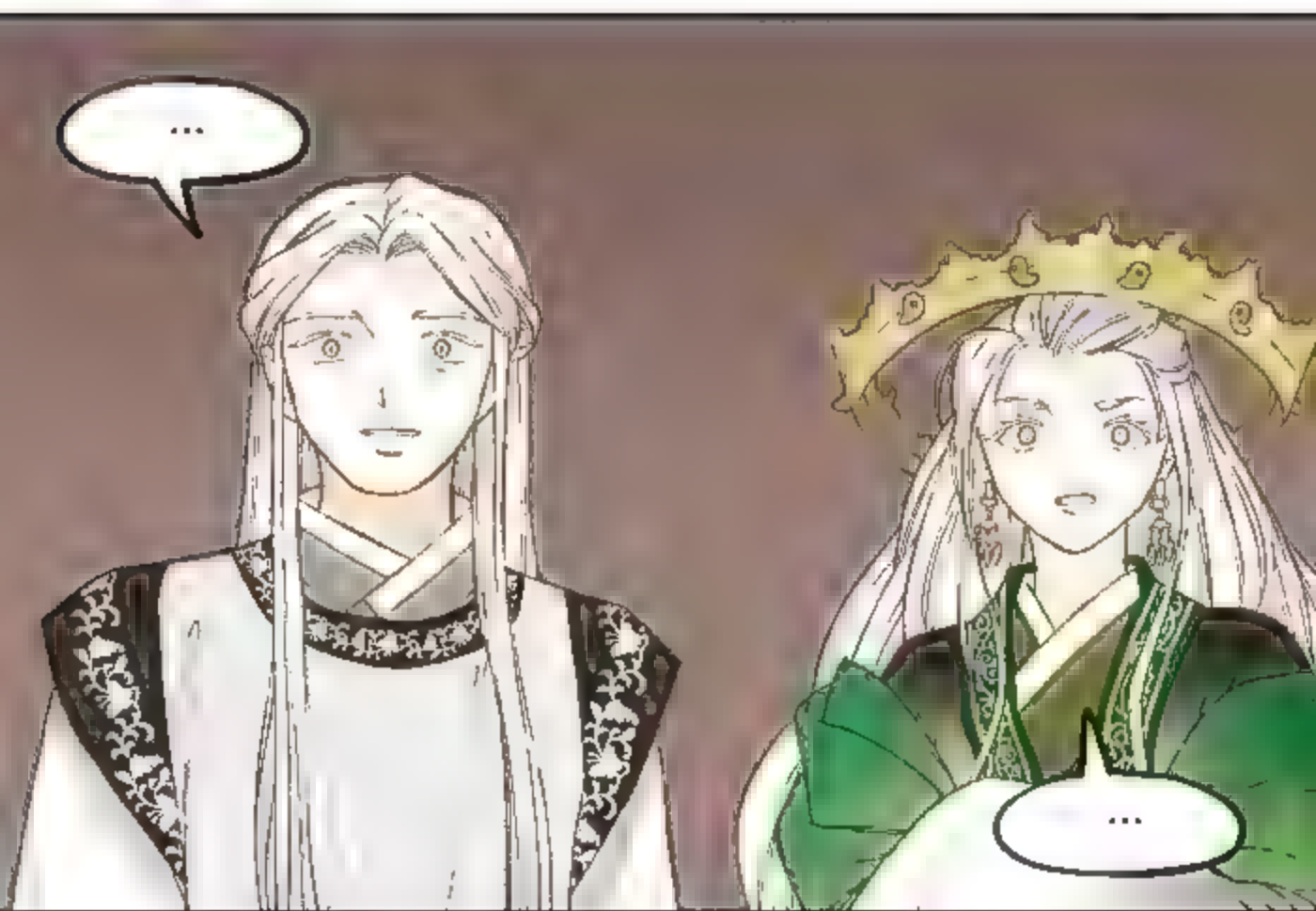


... THEY WOULD
FAR EXCEED THE POWER
OF ONE DRAGON, LET
ALONE ONE ORB.

WHAT
I AM SAYING
IS...

... THAT
I WILL RESTORE
THE NAKDONG RIVER TO
ITS FORMER STATE,
NO MATTER
WHAT

WHAT.

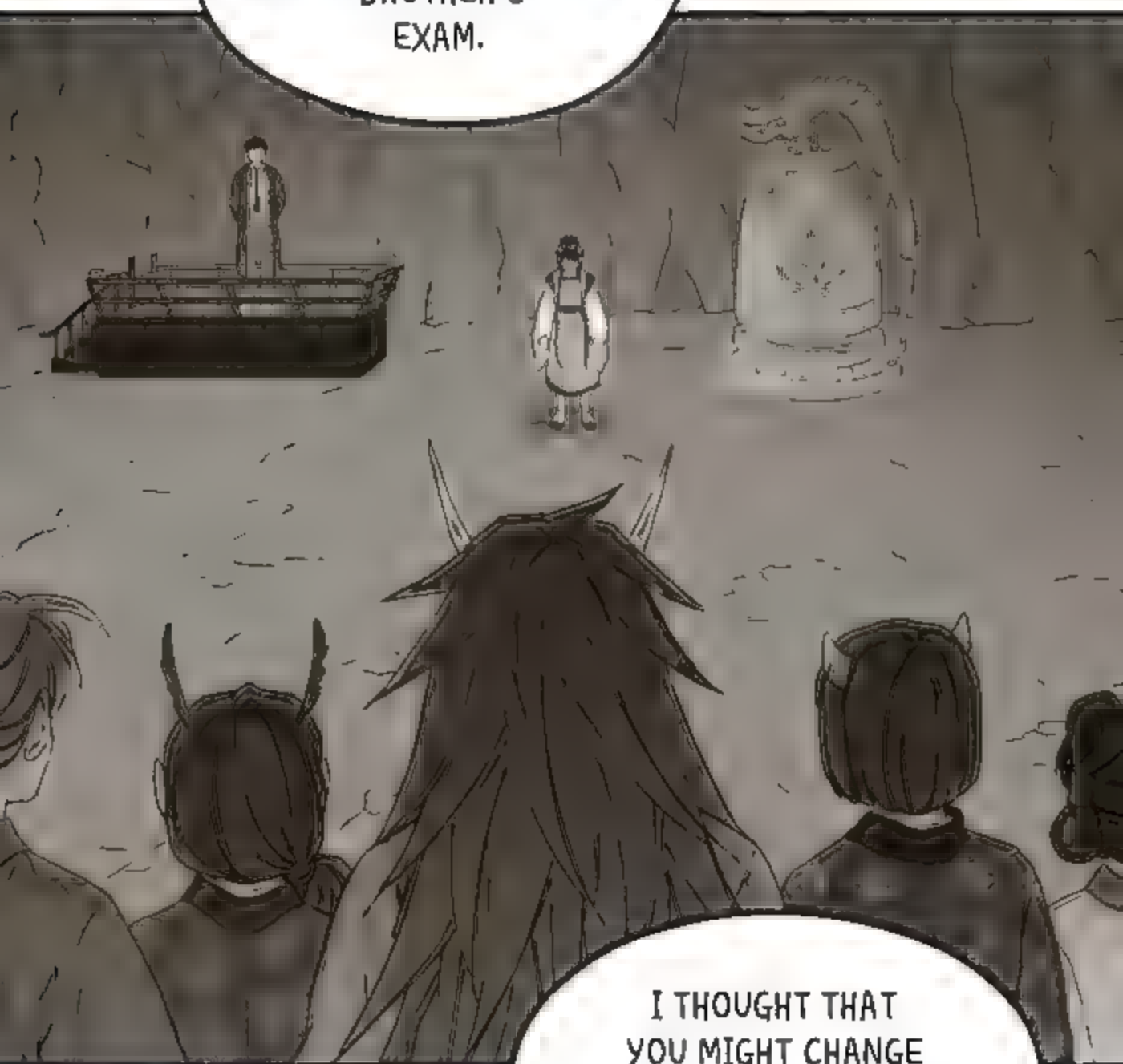


HAHAHA!

HOW CONSISTENT
YOU ARE.



I REMEMBER
YOU DOING SOMETHING
LIKE THIS AT MY
BROTHER'S
EXAM.



I THOUGHT THAT
YOU MIGHT CHANGE
ONCE YOU BECAME
A DRAGON...

YOUR
RESPONSE
WAS MUCH LIKE THIS
BACK THEN,
AS WELL.

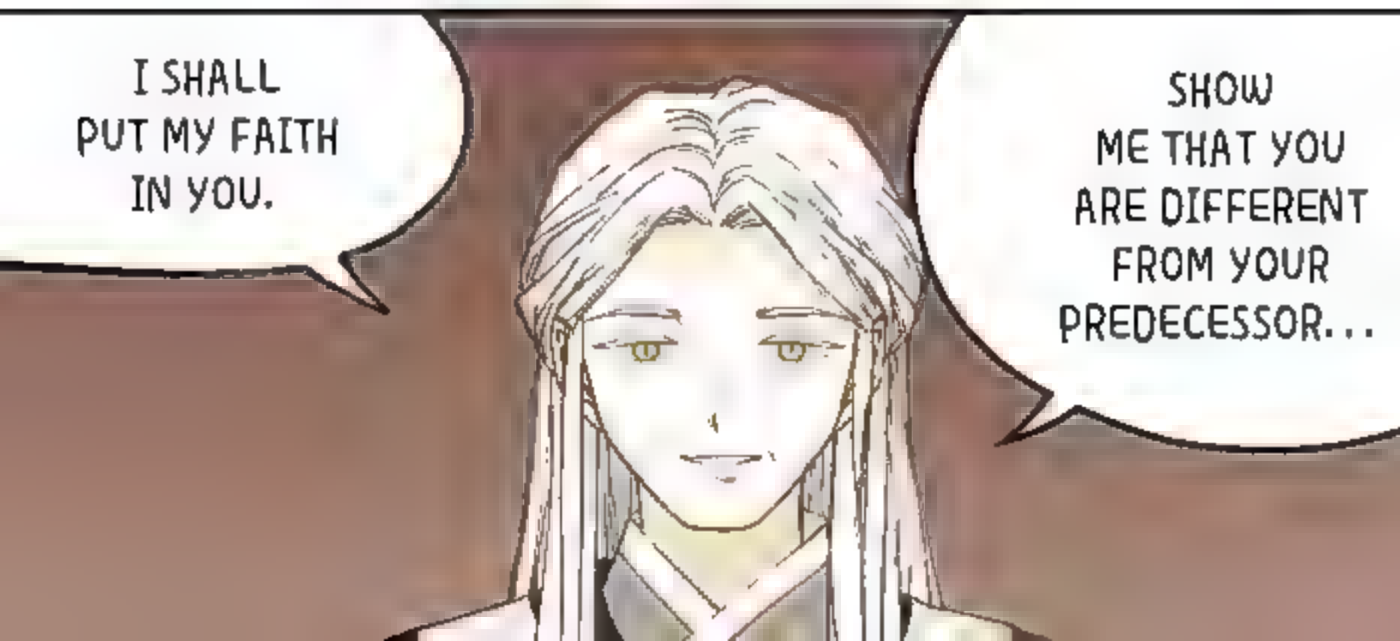


DESPITE GOING
THROUGH SO MUCH,
YOU HAVE NOT LOST
WHO YOU ARE AT
YOUR CORE.



YOU MAY
SEEM WEAK...

...BUT YOUR
HEART IS STRONGER
THAN ANYONE
ELSE'S.



I SHALL
PUT MY FAITH
IN YOU.

SHOW
ME THAT YOU
ARE DIFFERENT
FROM YOUR
PREDECESSOR...



... BARI,
DRAGON OF
THE NAKDONG
RIVER.



I WILL...!

NOW,

THEN...

... WHAT IS
YOUR WISH?





NOW THAT
THESE IMOOGIS
MUST MOVE TO A NEW
PLACE AND BEGIN
WORKING,

I WOULD LIKE
THEIR MINDS TO
BE AT EASE.



IF WE ARE
TO COEXIST WITH
HUMANS, AS YOU
WISH...

... THEY MUST
LET GO OF THEIR
GRUDGES.

PLEASE END
THE ENMITY BETWEEN
ALL SNAKES WITH
ORBS...

CLENCH

...AND
HUMANS.

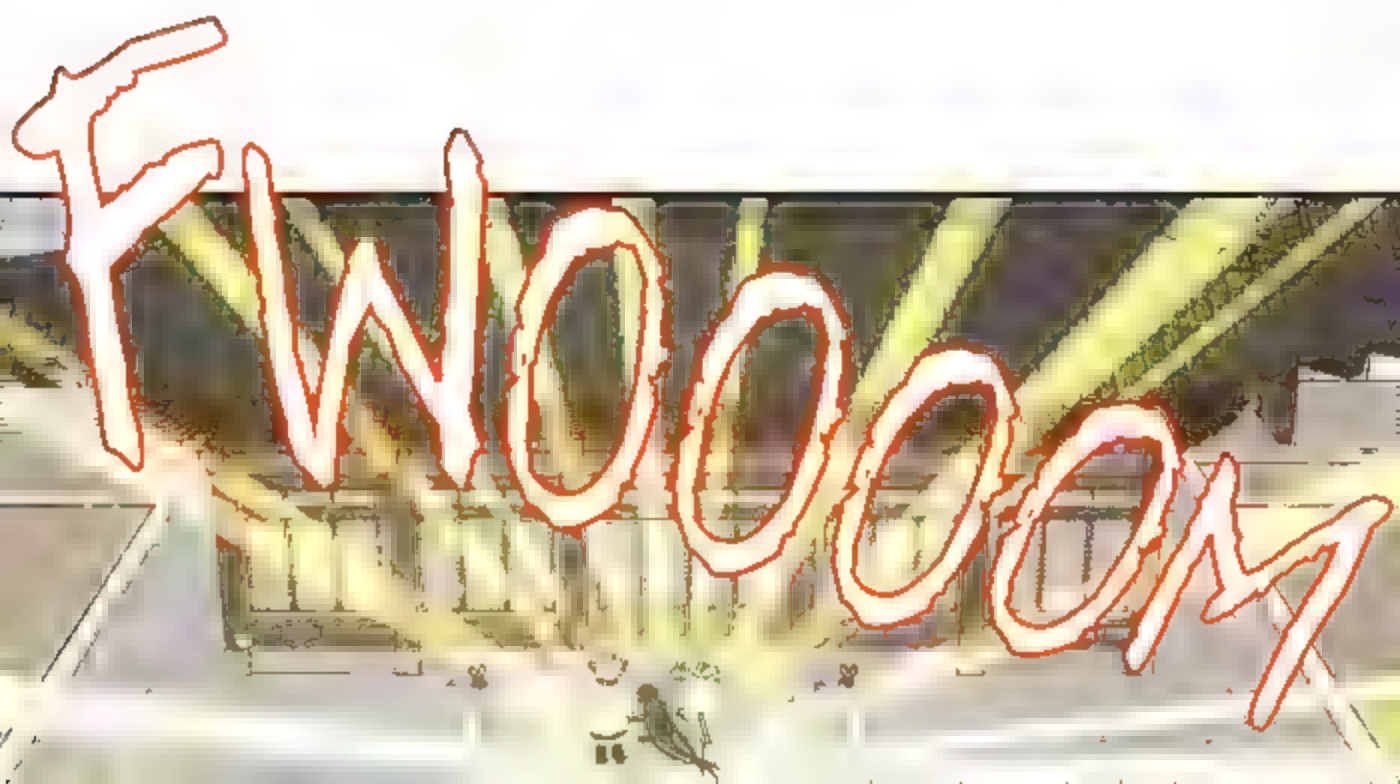


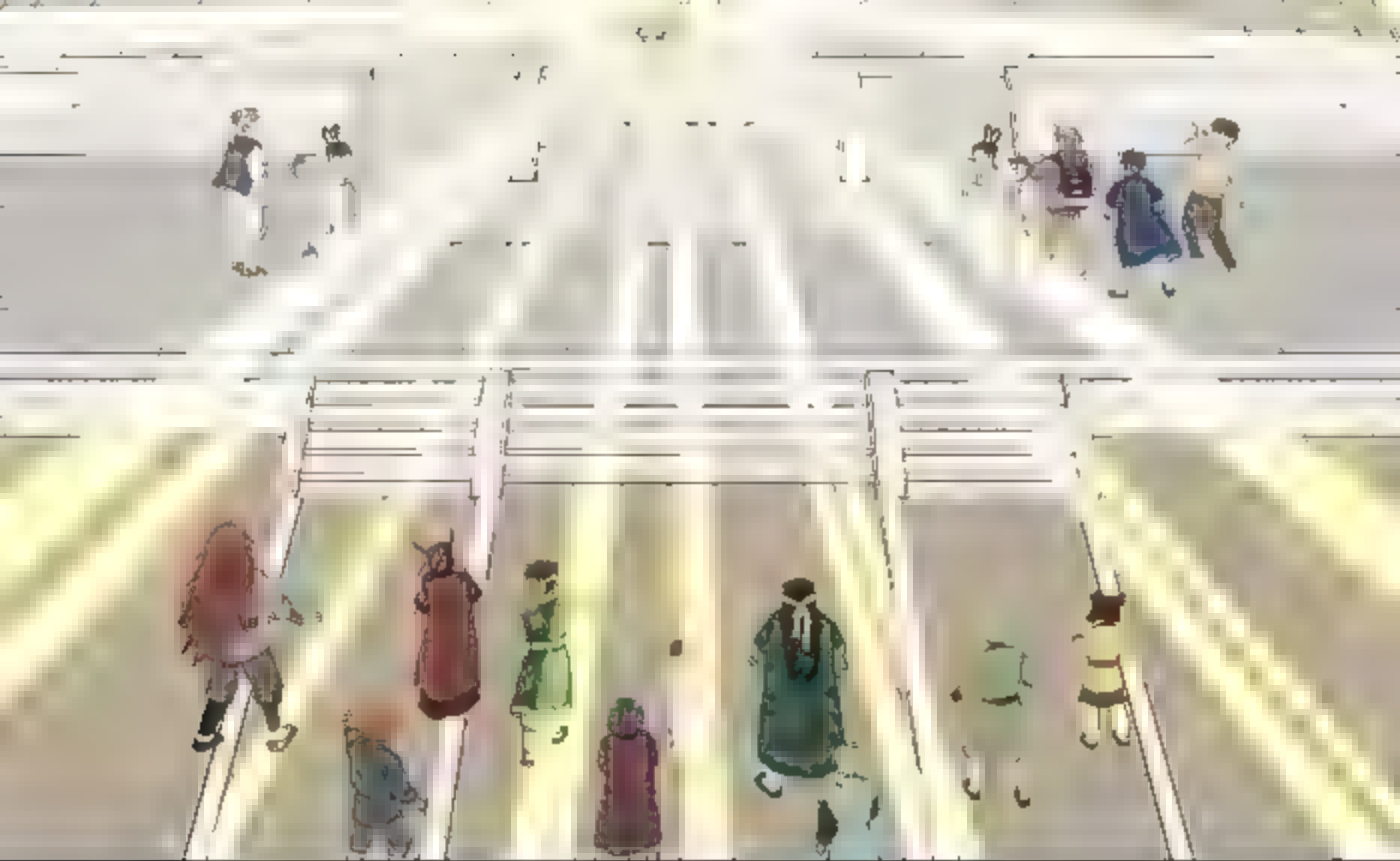
HUH...?

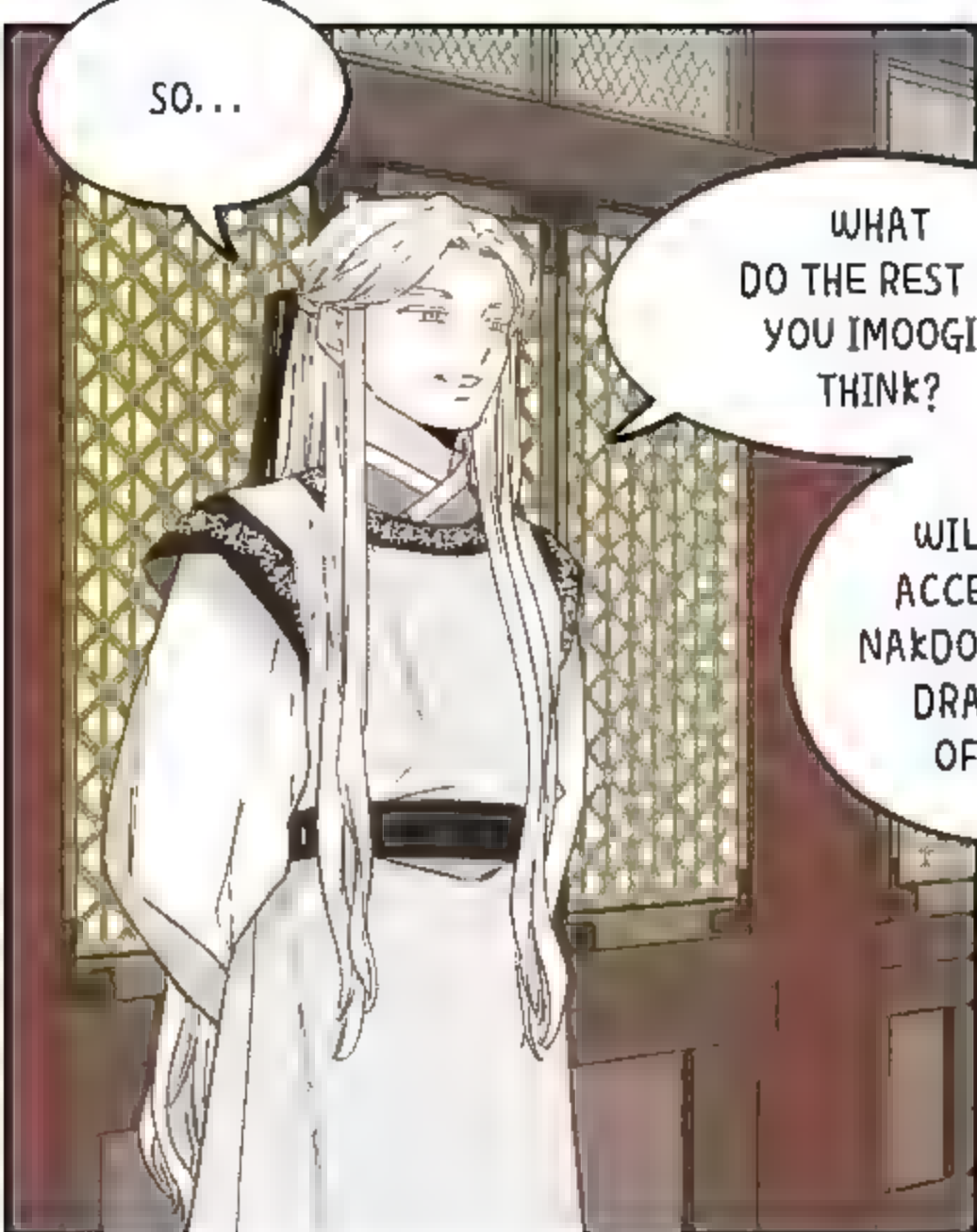
F



FW





A woman with long, light-colored hair is standing in front of a traditional Korean lattice window. She is wearing a white traditional Korean robe (hanbok) with a dark belt and a decorative collar. The background shows the intricate lattice pattern of the window and a dark wooden door.

SO...

WHAT
DO THE REST OF
YOU IMOOGIS
THINK?

WILL YOU
ACCEPT THE
NAKDONG RIVER
DRAGON'S
OFFER?

W-WE
DON'T HAVE
ANYWHERE ELSE
TO GO, SO...

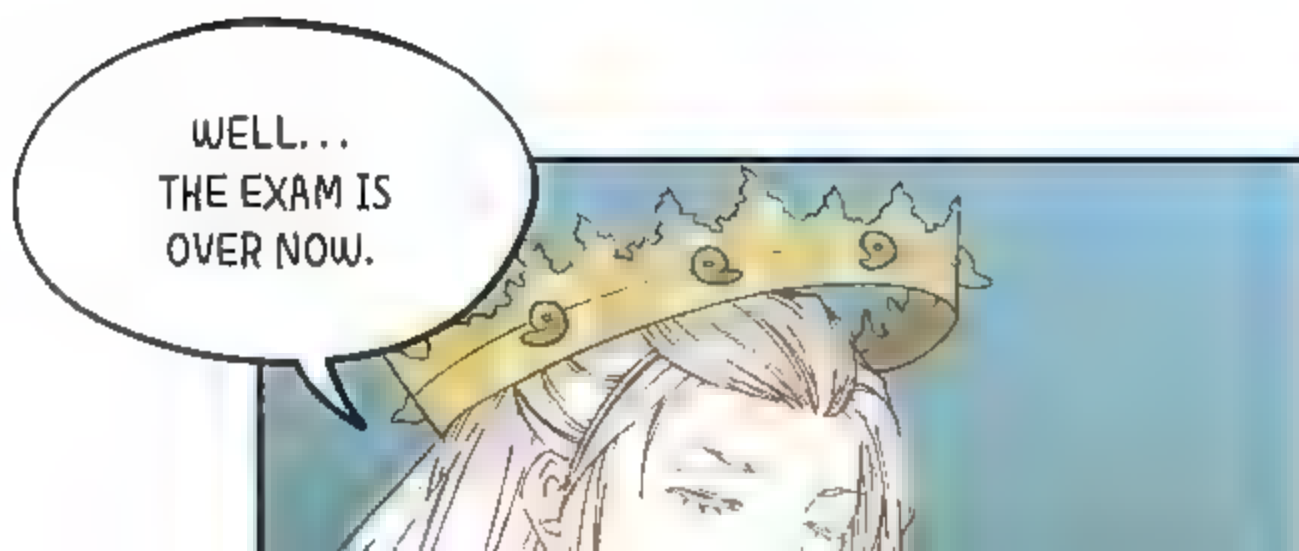


...IF HE'S
OFFERING US A
RIVER FOR US TO REST IN,
WE HAVE NO REASON
TO REFUSE.

T-THANK YOU,
BARI.







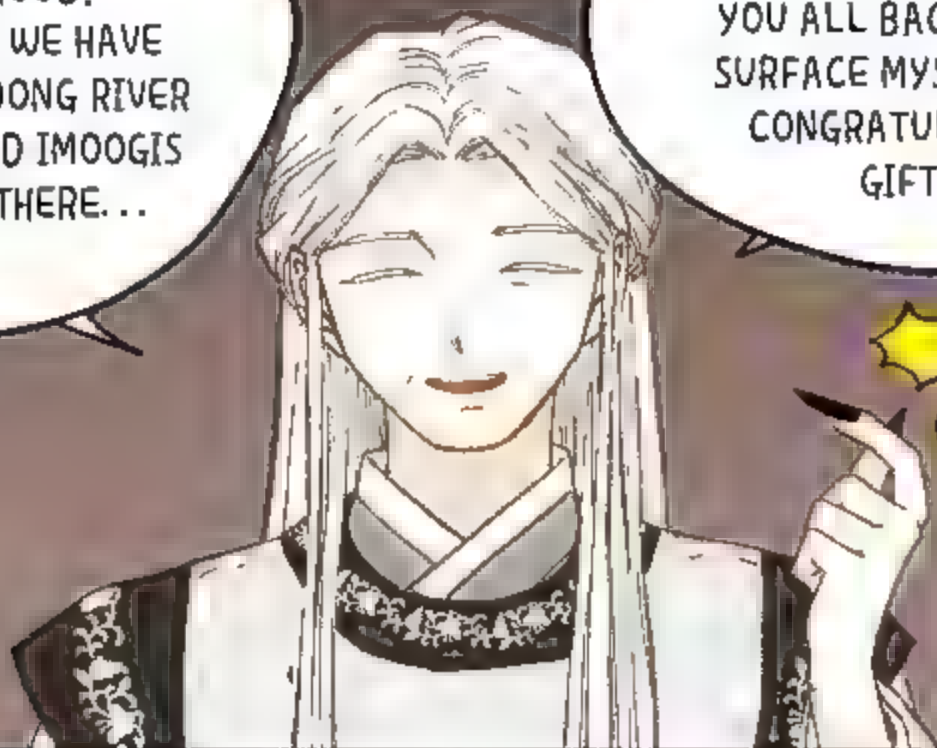


I HAVE DONE
MY PART,

SO IT DOES
NOT MATTER TO
ME WHETHER OR NOT
THAT FOOLISH DRAGON
RUINS HIS RIVER
OR NOT...

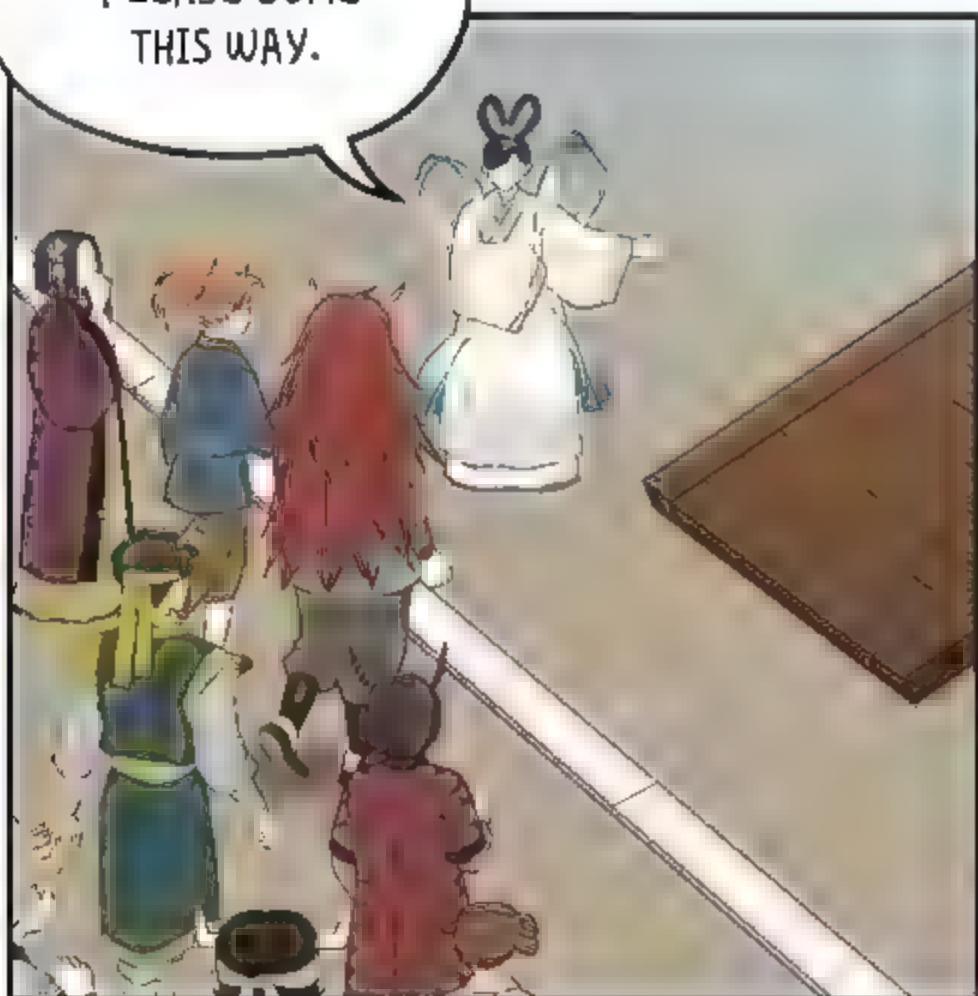
VERY GOOD!
NOW THAT WE HAVE
A NEW NAKDONG RIVER
DRAGON AND IMOOGIS
TO WORK THERE...

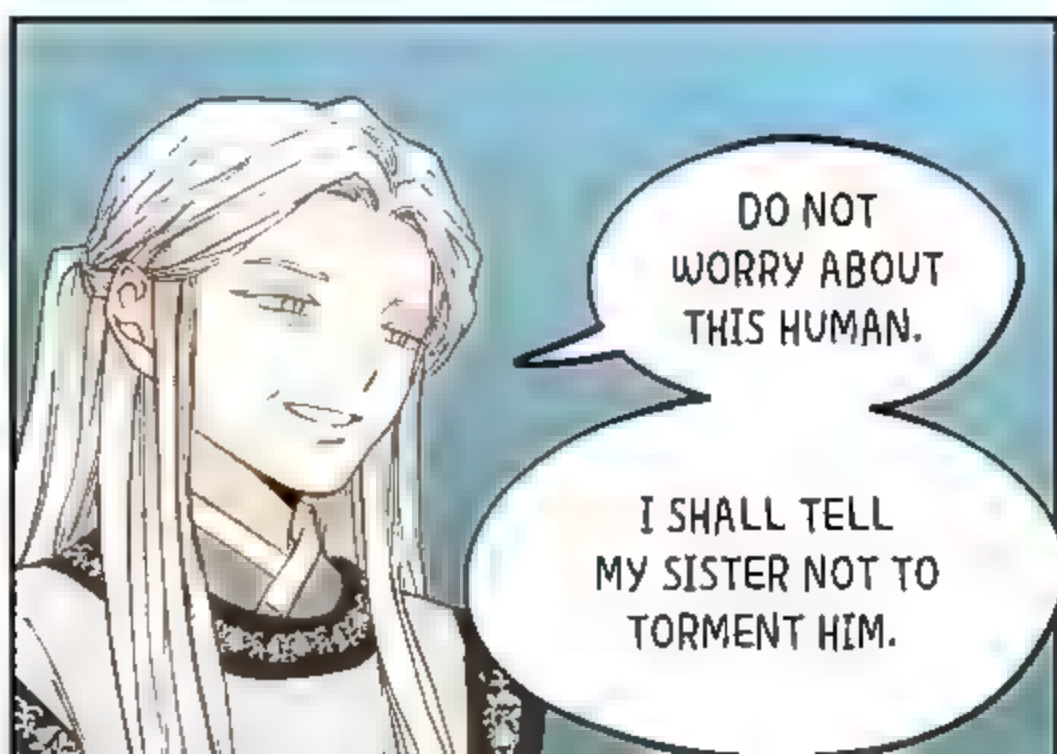
...I SHALL BRING
YOU ALL BACK TO THE
SURFACE MYSELF AS A
CONGRATULATORY
GIFT.



SNAP

PLEASE COME
THIS WAY.







HE
WAS GRANTED
ETERNAL LIFE BY
THE SOUTHERN
SEA...



...SO
FROM NOW ON,
HE MAY LIVE AS HE
PLEASES IN THESE
WATERS.





I DON'T THINK
THAT YOUR FEELINGS
TOWARDS ME...

... WERE JUST
INSECURITY.

I'M
NOT THAT MUCH
OF A FOOL.

NO, EVEN IF
THAT REALLY
IS...

ALL YOU
FELT TOWARDS
ME...





...I FORGIVE
YOU.



I'M NOT DOING
IT FOR YOU...

...I'M DOING
IT FOR MYSELF.



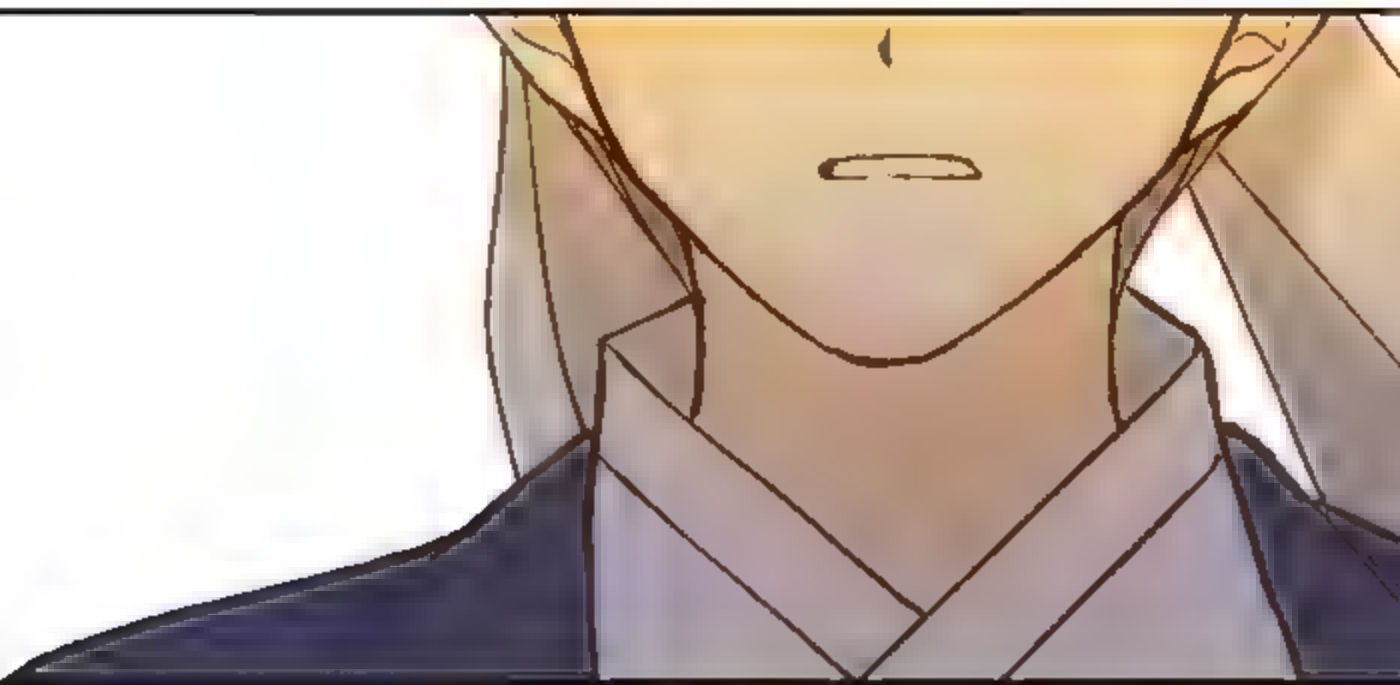
SOMEDAY,

IF YOU
CAN FINALLY
PUT EVERYTHING
BEHIND YOU...

... LET'S MEET
AGAIN.

I'LL BE
WAITING.







I'M HAPPY...

... BARI.





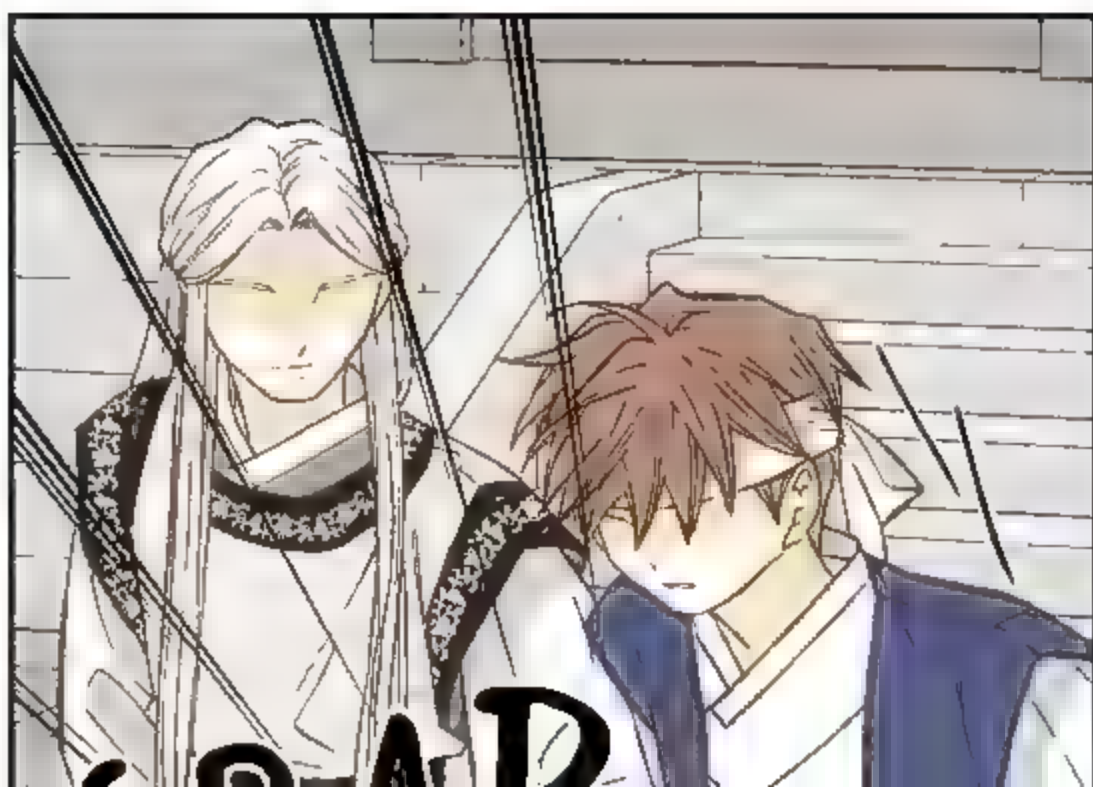
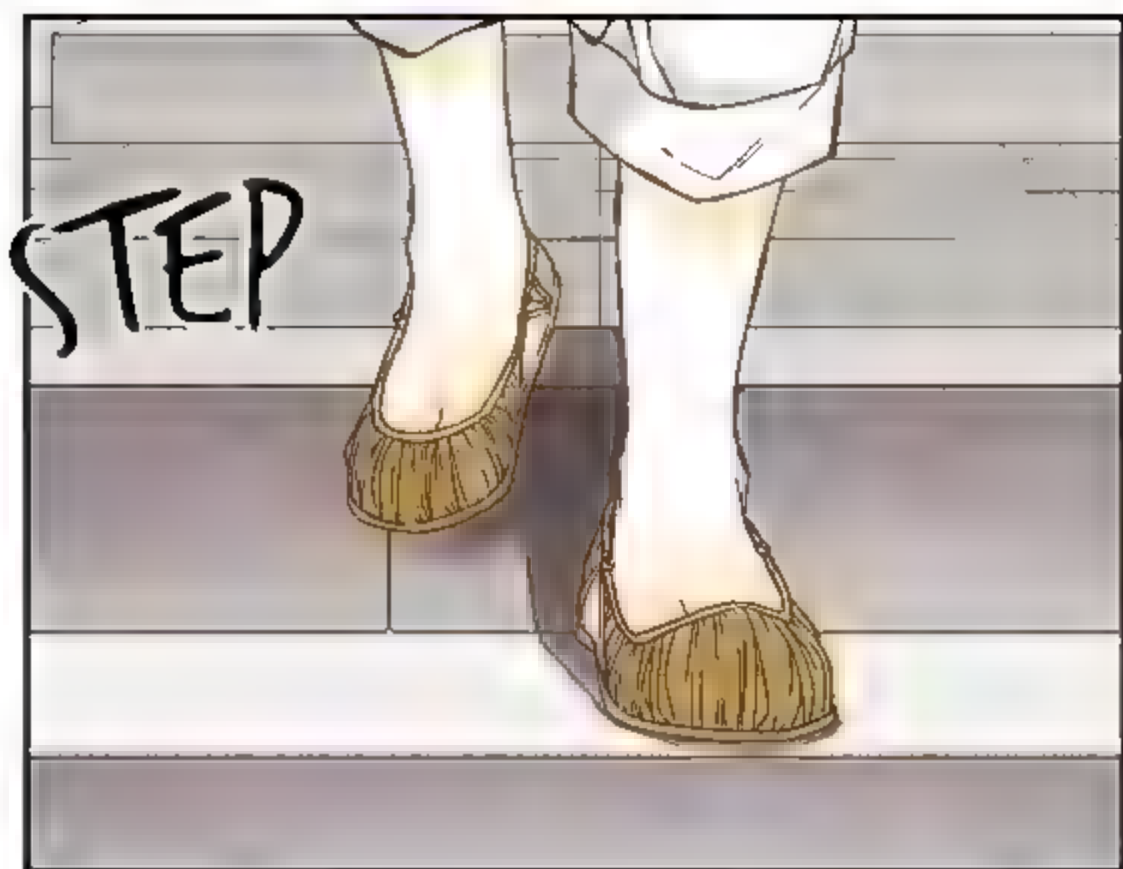
AND...



...I'M SORRY.

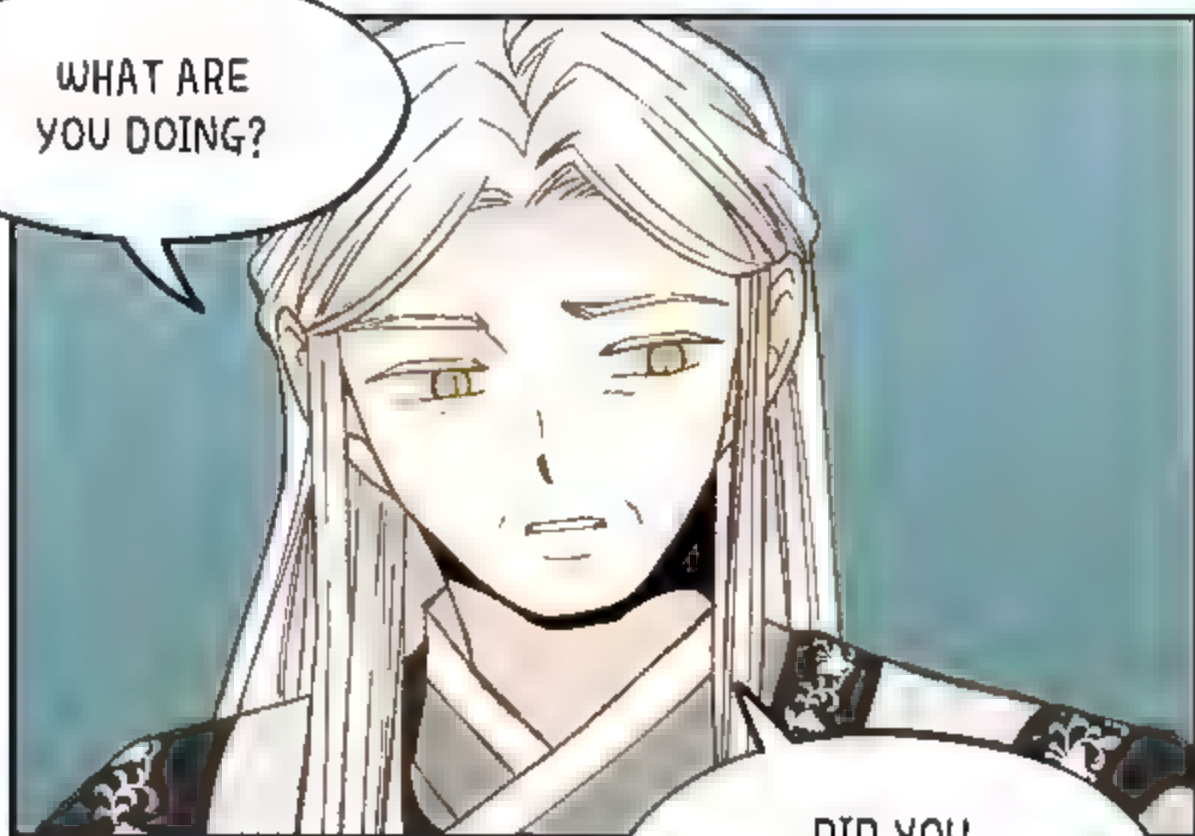








WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?



DID YOU
NOT HEAR WHAT
I JUST SAID?

I HAVE ALREADY
UPSET THE ORDER OF
THINGS ONCE,

AND I MADE
TWO FRIENDS I WAS
UNWORTHY OF LIVE IN
MISERY FOR A VERY
LONG TIME.

HOW COULD
YOU ASK ME TO DEFY
THE NATURAL ORDER
ONCE MORE?

I HAVE
COMPLETED MY
FINAL TASK.

FINAL TASK.

I CANNOT
ASK FOR ANYTHING
MORE.

EVEN IF THIS
CHOICE WILL PUT
A HEAVY BURDEN ON
YOUR FRIEND ' S
HEART AGAIN?



ALL MY
LIFE, I WANTED TO
BREAK AWAY FROM THE
SHACKLES HOLDING
ME DOWN.

BRUSH

I AM ENDLESSLY
HAPPY THAT I CAN NOW
MAKE THIS CHOICE FOR
MYSELF.

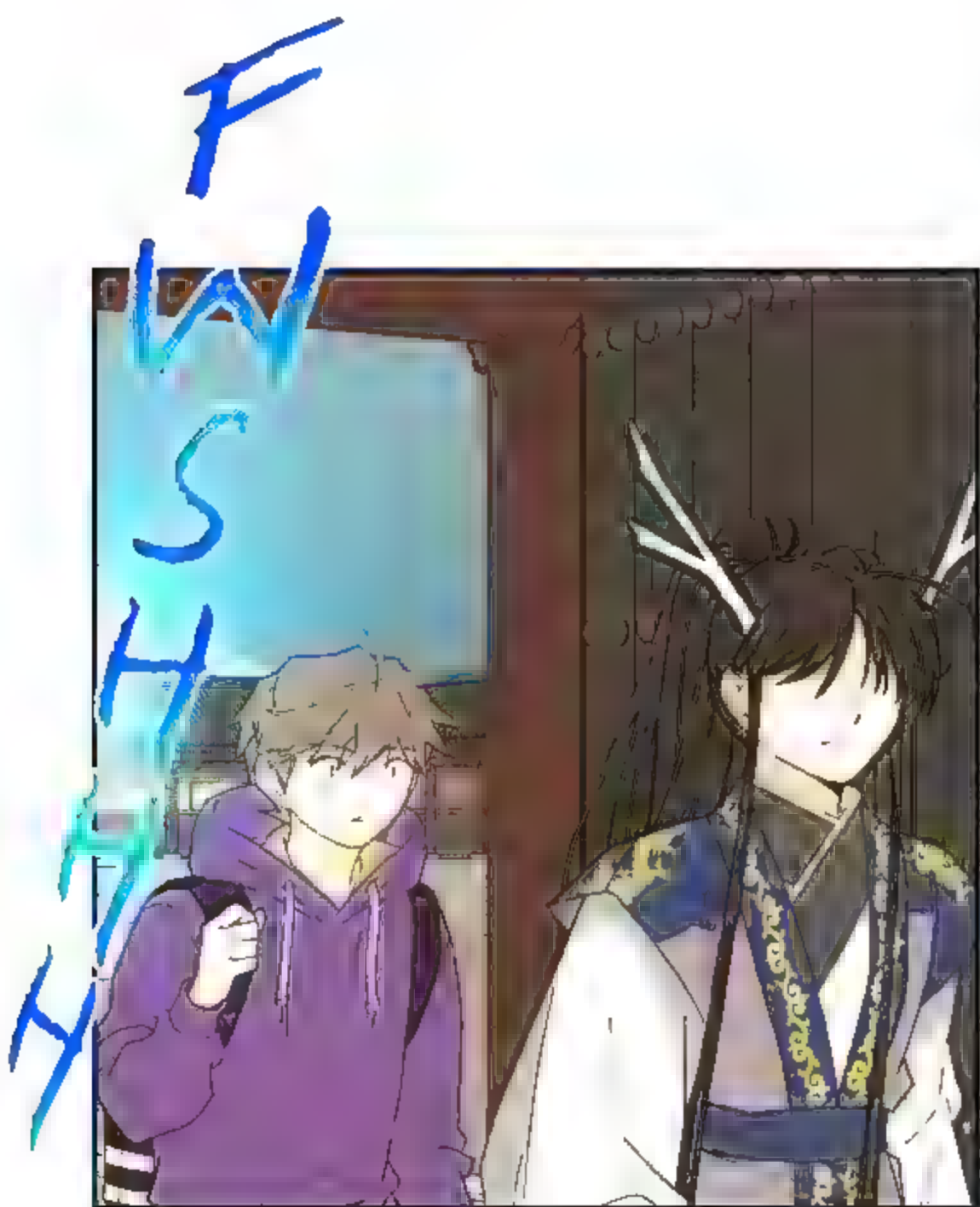


SO
PLEASE...

... TELL HIM
TO BE HAPPY
FOR ME.











HUH...?



...

HEY,
ARE YOU...

STEP

STEP



...CRYING?

HURRY UP!

QUIT
DRAGGING YOUR
FEET--



JEEZ,
YOU'RE STILL SUCH
A CRYBABY, EVEN AS
A DRAGON...

STOP
CRYING!



ARE YOU SURE
IT'S OKAY TO TREAT
HIM LIKE A KID WHEN
HE'S A DRAGON
NOW... ?

SHUT UP,
JUST GIVE ME
A HANDKERCHIEF
IF YOU HAVE
ONE!



Story/Art eon

Assistance stinis

HD

Gwang-gyu

teolteol